

GEN. MILES ASKS FOR MORE SOLDIERS

Wants Two Artillery and Five Infantry Regiments Added to the Army.

ALASKA NEEDS TROOPS.

Three Posts Should Be Established to Protect the Men in the Gold Fields.

Washington, Oct. 22.—Major-General Nelson A. Miles, commanding the United States Army, has made his annual report to the Secretary of War. Containing as it does the yearly reports of the General's various subordinates in the different departments, the document furnishes an exhaustive review of the work of the year. Among the other suggestions in the report

are these:

"The army, although inadequate in point of numbers, was never in a higher state of efficiency, both as to the character and equipment of the officers and the influence and loyalty of the soldiers. Important changes and improvements have been made along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and especially in the mounting of modern artillery and the appliances adopted for the defence of the coasts.

"The navy, which has been made on the Pacific coast in the establishment of modern batteries of artillery has made it necessary to that region, and adopt a new system of defence.

Alaska Needs Attention.

"Alaska is in extent eleven times the area of the State of New York. The recent discovery of rich gold fields, together with the timber and fishery interests of that territory are attracting and will attract a very large number of people to that region, necessitating a more stable civil government, and also fine

the most important points of military operations, and for the other territories have been occupied by military posts, and appropriations have been made for military roads, establishment of telegraph lines, and a river, and a favorable position for blocking out the occupation of the vast territories by citizens. It is deemed but just and advisable that the same liberal spirit should be manifested now as was shown in the past.

"As far as practicable, it would, in my opinion, be advisable to have its waters thoroughly examined by such of the naval forces as may be available, and as military reconnoitering and exploring parties in past years have been sent into that country to furnish knowledge of its character, resources and necessities, this examination should be continued on a larger and more liberal scale.

Indians May Make Trouble.

"While there is no conflict between the

population composed of some 20,000 Indians, and the white explorers and settlers. The former are supplied with modern arms but they may be turbulent and troublesome. Such has been the history of nearly all the tribes in other territories. It is therefore necessary to adequately provide the necessities for military forces in that territory by the establishment of at least three military posts. The condition of the Indians in the West generally is better to-day than it has been for many years, and during the last few years the Government has made rapid progress toward permanent settlement and semi-civilization. It was a wise policy to have the President appoint to the army to act as Indian agents, and I trust this system will be continued.

Although the general desire of our people is to maintain a condition of peace with all nations, and the policy of the Government is one of good will and peaceful relations with all others, yet nothing could be more injudicious than to remove the army and naval forces from the

he lives in millions and the accumulated wealth of many generations to be destroyed by a few millions of men in a few weeks, which we are fable to come into contact.

General Miles also recommends fortification appropriations suggested in the report of the War Department to the army. He recommends strongly an increase in the army of at least two additional regiments of artillery, saying that by the 1st of December next a large number of coast defence positions will be armed in part fully with modern appliances of war, and that the coast fortifications will require no troops stationed and none available for assignment to these positions without taking them from the front lines where they are so much more imperatively needed.

He also urges the necessity of adding two infantry regiments to the army, and recommends that the army be increased in strength on a basis of total population. This standard, he thinks, should be a maximum of one enlisted man to every 100 of the population, and a minimum one soldier to every 2,000 population.

BIG SILK FIRM FAILS.

W. G. Hittich & Co., Glasgow, Scotland,

liabilities Estimated at \$1,000,000.

W. G. Hitchcock & Co., Importers of black dress goods, crepes and silks, at Nos. 453 and 455 Broome street, made an assignment yesterday to William J. Curtis, of Sullivan & Cromwell, attorneys at No. 11 Wall street, for the sum of \$50,000. The house is the oldest and best known in this line of business. It had a world-wide reputation and was supposed to have a stock of \$1,000,000. The assignment is the biggest surprise in the dress goods trade in this city for many years.

W. G. Hitchcock & Co. the senior partner, was regarded as one of the most enterprising and careful merchants in the city and his opinion was looked upon with the greatest respect by fellow merchants. His trade was completely at a loss to account for the failure, as there had been no interruption of business for many years. He had all the credit it wanted, and their paper sold readily at a very low rate.

but are currently estimated at \$1,000,000. The assets are likewise large, but their value cannot be ascertained, as they are not insured. The partners are W. G. Hitchcock who resides at Cassadale; George J. Goss of Summit, N. J., and A. Howard Hoppling of New York City. That the hotel was formed in 1818 by Pierre Becar, an immigrant who passed through various firms, including the late firm of Becar, N. J. Becar & Co., Becar, Benjamin & Co., N. J. Becar & Co., Becar & Co., Becar, Napier & Co., and finally to the late firm of W. G. Hitchcock & Co., the latter style having been adopted in 1886.

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